

he had restored, so that it looked exactly as it
 did in the
 Middle Ages and was similarly arranged within
 —although
 he had embellished it with books and pictures
 of a later
 period- On this trip—here while visiting this
 castle, just
 as at Cairo—I was helped for the first time in
 my life by the
 fact that I had always gratified my thirst for
 useless information. I have never demanded of knowledge
 anything except that it shall be useless. Now this means
 that while I
 know nothing that the average scholar does
 not know, yet
 that I know a good deal as to which the
 average politician
 or man of affairs is abysmally ignorant; and
 as naturally
 my life has been chiefly led among politicians
 and men of
 affairs, when it was not led among
 frontiersmen, there are
 a great many things I have studied about
 which I have
 rarely or never had a chance to speak—
 largely, my dear
 sir, because it is only occasionally that I am
 thrown for a
 few hours intimately in your company! Until I
 went abroad
 this time I doubt if I had ever derived the
 slightest benefit,
 however small, from such things as a
 knowledge of Moslem
 travels in the thirteenth century, or Magyar
 history, or the
 Mongol conquests, or the growth of the races
 of Middle
 Europe and the deeds of their great men. On
 this occasion,
 however, my knowledge of these things really
 added to my
 pleasure, and brought me into touch with
 people. For in-
 stance, "Wiltczek hugely enjoyed finding that,
 besides a gen-
 eral interest in sport and in medieval ways

and customs, I
had taken it for granted that his family, if not
Czeck, was
of Polish origin, and descended from the Piasts
and from
Boleslav the Glorious; that when he showed
me a portrait
of Batory, I was familiar with that Hungarian
king of
Poland and his wars against Ivan the Terrible;
that I knew
the details of Rudolph's fight with Ottocar of
Bohemia,,
and so on and so on. He took a great fancy to
Kermit,
whom he called "leettle" Kermit—for
although Kermit
was nearly six feet, Wiltczek towered above
him—led him
round by the hand through most of the
building, and then
kissed him good-by! Kermit is an impassive
person, and
was much less upset by this than an English boy
would have